DOH-BAY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TO MOVE TO THE BAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



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Panama City, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health in Bay County's Environmental Health Division is moving. Offices are currently located at 225 McKenzie Avenue in Panama City. Programs and services will be moved to the Bay County Government Center at 840 W 11th Street, Suite 2150, Panama City. The offices will be closed during the move on Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22. We will reopen on Monday, March 25.

"Moving DOH-Bay's Environmental Health Division to the Bay County Government Center will allow one-stop access to residents and contractors who are building or making repairs," said Holly Holt, Interim Administrator for the Florida Department of Health in Bay County. "We are pleased with this partnership with the County that will benefit all parties."

The Environmental Health Division is working to process a record number of septic repair permits. Since December, requests for repairs to existing systems have increased by more than 40-percent. To help with the additional applications, DOH-Bay added a new person to the team in late February.

Permit applications can be completed in-person on paper at the Environmental Health office. Applications can also be downloaded online by visiting http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/onsite-sewage/ostds-permitting.html. This site also has additional information on the overall process.

Applications for repairs to existing septic systems are completed first. New systems requests follow repair applications. Permits are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Per Florida Statutes the deadline to notify the applicant of additional information needed for the permit is 30 days. Also completed applications must be approved or denied in 90 days. The best way to check the status of your permit is to contact the person who filed the application. This is the point of contact that DOH-updates on the permit.

DOH-Bay's Environmental Health Division seeks to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Bay County through programs such as; septic system permitting, public swimming pools inspections, water testing under the Florida Healthy Beaches program, and mobile home park inspections. For any additional questions visit Bay.FloridaHealth.gov or call DOH-Bay's Environmental Health Division at 850-481-4812.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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